

THIRD COLLEGE EDITION

Webster's New World Dictionary

OF AMERICAN ENGLISH

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Gmc **motta*, heap of earth) a deep, broad ditch dug around a fortress or castle, and often filled with water for protection against invasion —*vt.* to surround with or as with a crowd

mob (măb) *n.* [*< L. mobile(vulgus), movable* (crowd)] 1 a disorderly and lawless crowd; rabble 2 any crowd 3 the masses; common people collectively: a contemptuous term 4 [Slang] a gang of criminals —*vt.* **mobbed, mobbing** 1 to crowd around and attack 2 to crowd around and jostle, annoy, etc., as in curiosity or anger 3 to fill with many people; throng —*SYN.* CROWD! —**mob'bish** *adj.*

mob-cap (măb'kăp') *n.* [*< MDu mop, woman's cap + CAP*] a woman's indoor cap, esp. of the 18th cent. having a high, puffy crown and often tied under the chin

mo-bile (mô'bêl; also -bil, -bêl & chiefly Brit & Cdn, -bîl; for *adj.* 5 & *n.*, usually, -bêl) *adj.* [OFr *< L. mobilis, movable < mouere, to move*] 1 a) moving, or capable of moving or being moved, from place to place b) movable by means of a motor vehicle or vehicles *mobile* X-ray unit/ 2 very fluid as mercury 3 capable of changing rapidly or easily, as in response to different moods, feelings, conditions, needs, or influences; flexible, adaptable, etc. 4 a) designating or of a society in which one may change in social status, and in which social groups mingle freely b) designating a person who is experiencing a change in social status (the upwardly *mobile* professional)/ 5 *Art* that is or has to do with a mobile or mobiles —*n.* a piece of abstract sculpture which aims to depict movement, i.e., kinetic rather than static rhythms, as by an arrangement of thin forms, rings, rods, etc. balanced and suspended in midair and set in motion by air currents —**mo-bil-ity** (mô'bîl'ê-tê) *n.*

Mo-bile (mô'bêl, mô'bêl') [*< Fr. < AmInd < ?*] 1 seaport in SW Ala., on Mobile Bay: pop. 200,000 2 river in SW Ala., formed by the Alabama & Tombigbee rivers & flowing into Mobile Bay: c 45 mi (73 km)

-mobile (mô'bêl') [*< (AUTO)MOBILE*] combining form motorized vehicle designed for a (specified) purpose [*bookmobile, snowmobile*]

Mobile Bay arm of the Gulf of Mexico, extending into SW Ala.: c 35 mi. (56 km) long

mobile home a movable dwelling with no permanent foundation, but connected to utility lines and set more or less permanently at a location: cf. MOTOR HOME

mo-bil-ize (mô'bă-lîz') *vt.* -lized, -lizing [Fr *mobiliser*] 1 a) to make mobile, or movable b) to put into motion, circulation, or use 2 to bring into readiness for immediate active service in war 3 to organize (people, resources etc.) for active service or use in any emergency, drive, etc. —*vi.* to become organized and ready, as for war —**mo-bil-iz-able** *adj.* —**mo-bil-iza'tion** *n.* —**mo-bil-iz'er** *n.*

Mô-bîlus strip (mô'bă-bă, mô'b') [after A. F. Möbius (1790-1868), Ger. mathematician] a one-edged geometric surface with only one continuous side, formed by giving a 180° twist to a narrow, rectangular strip of paper and then connecting the two ends together Also Möbius band

mob-oc-ra-cy (măb'ăkră-sê) *n.* *pl.* -cies [MOB + (DEMOCRACY)] 1 rule or domination by a mob 2 the mob as ruler —**mo'b-oc-rat'ic** *adj.*

mob-ster (măb'stär) *n.* [Slang] a member of a criminal mob; gangster

Mo-çam-bi-que (mô'săm bē'kə) *Port. name of MOZAMBIQUE*

mo-că-sin (măk'ă-sən) *n.* [*< ArInd (Algonquian), as in Narragansett mokussin, Massachusetts mohkission*] 1 a heelless slipper of soft, flexible leather, worn orig. by North American Indians 2 any slipper more or less like this but with a hard sole and heel 3 WATER MOCCASIN

***moccasin flower** CYPRIPEDRUM (sense 1)

Mo-cha (mô'kə) seaport in SW Yemen, on the Red Sea: pop. 6,000 —*n.* [m-] 1 a choice grade of coffee grown orig. in Arabia 2 [Colloq.] any coffee 3 a flavoring made from an infusion of coffee, or of coffee and chocolate 4 a soft, velvety leather of Egyptian sheepskin, used esp. for gloves 5 chocolate brown —*adj.* [m-] 1 flavored with coffee or coffee and chocolate 2 chocolate-brown

mock (măk) *vt.* [ME *mokken < OFr moquer, to mock*] 1 to hold up to scorn or contempt; ridicule 2 to imitate or mimic, as in fun or derision; burlesque 3 to lead on and disappoint; deceive 4 to defy and make futile; defeat (the fortress *mocked* the invaders) —*vi.* to show or express scorn, ridicule, or contempt; jeer: often with *at* —*n.* 1 an act of mocking, jibe; sneer 2 a person or thing receiving or deserving ridicule or derision 3 an imitation or counterfeit —*adj.* 1 sham; false; imitation; pretended [*a mock battle/ 2* or of designating a food that imitates another (*mock mince meat/ 3*)] —*adv.* in a false or insincere manner [*mock-sympathetic words/ 4*] —*SYN.* IMITATE, RIDICULE —**mock'er** *n.* —**mock'ing-ly** *adv.*

mock-er-ly (măk'ər-ē) *n.* *pl.* -eries [ME *moquerie < OFr moquerie*] 1 a mocking (in various senses) 2 a person or thing receiving or deserving ridicule 3 a false, derivative, or impertinent imitation; travesty; burlesque 4 vain or disappointing effort; futility

mock-her-oi-c (măkh'êr'ôik) *adj.* mocking, or burlesquing, any style, action, or character —*n.* a burlesque of something heroic —**mock'-her-oi-cally** *adv.*

***mocking-bird** (măk'ing bərd) *n.* any of various New World passerine birds (family Mimidae); esp. a species (*Mimus polyglottos*) of the U.S. noted for its song and its ability to imitate the calls of many other birds

mock orange ★any of a genus (*Philadelphus*) of shrubs of the saxifrage family, with fragrant white flowers resembling those of the orange

mock turtle soup a soup made from calf's head, veal, etc. spiced so as to taste like green turtle soup

mock-up (măk'ŭp) *n.* 1 altered (*< MOCK & UP*) < Fr *maquette*, a sketch mock-up < *maquiller*, to pretend, orig. a cant term to work

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taining, composed of, or written in several languages — *n.* 1 a person who speaks or writes several languages 2 a book written in several languages 3 a mixture or confusion of languages

poly-no-tus (pāl'i nō'tas) 5th cent. B.C.; Gr. painter

poly-gon (pāl'i gān) *n.* [LL *polygonum* < Gr *polygōnon*, neut. of *polygōnos*; see POLY- & -GON] a closed plane figure, esp. one with more than four sides and angles — **poly-gon-i-cal** (pā lig'a nāl) *adj.*

poly-gio-num (pō lig'a nūm, pā-) *n.* [ModL < L *polygonon* < Gr, kind of plant, knotgrass < *poly-*, many (see POLY-) + *gony*, a joint, KNEE; from the many joints] any of a genus (*Polygonum*) of annual or perennial plants of the buckwheat family, having conspicuous enlarged nodes, ocreae; and small whitish, greenish, or pink flowers in the leaf axils or in terminal clusters

poly-graph (pāl'i graf) *n.* [Gr *polygraphos*; writing much: see POLY- & -GRAPH] 1 an early device for reproducing writings or drawings 2 an instrument for recording simultaneously changes in blood pressure, respiration, pulse rate, etc.: see I.E. DETECTOR — **poly-graph-ic** *adj.*

poly-gy-ny (pō lig'a nē, pō-) *n.* [ModL *polygynia* < POLY- + Gr *gynē*, woman, wife: see GYNO-] 1 the state or practice of having two or more wives at the same time 2 Bot. the fact of having many styles or pistils 3 Zool. the mating of a male animal with more than one female — **poly-gy-nous** (-nās) *adj.*

poly-he-dron (pāl'i hē'drān) *n.*, pl. -drons or -dra (-dra) [ModL < Gr *polyedron*, neut. of *polyedros*: see POLY- & -EDRON] a solid figure, esp. one with more than six plane surfaces: see also PYRAMID, ILLUS. — **poly-he-dral** *adj.*

poly-hy-dric (pāl'i hī'drik) *adj.* [POLY- + HYDR(OXY)- + -IC] containing more than one hydroxyl group (OH) in the molecule. Also **poly-hy-drox-y** (-hī drāk'ēe)

poly-hym-nia (pāl'i him'nē) *n.* [L < Gr *Polymnia* < *poly-*, POLY- + *hymnos*, hymn: see HYMN] Gr. Myth. the Muse of sacred poetry. Also **Polym-nia** (pō lim'-)

poly-i-C (pāl'a i'sē) [poly- (nosinic-poly)c(ytidylic acid)] a synthetic ribonucleic acid that promotes the production of interferon in the body

poly-math (pāl'a math') *n.* [Gr *polymathēs*, knowing much < *poly-*, POLY- + *mathanēin*, learn: see MATHEMATICAL] a person of great and diversified learning — **poly-math-ic** *adj.*

poly-mer (pāl'i mēr) *n.* [Gr < Gr *polymēros*, of many parts: see POLY- & -MEROS] a naturally occurring or synthetic substance consisting of giant molecules formed from polymerization

poly-mer-ase (pāl'i mēr āz', ās') *n.* any of various enzymes that promote polymerization, esp. of nucleic acids

poly-mer-ic (pāl'i mēr'ik) *adj.* [Gr *polymēros*: see POLYMER] of or relating to a polymer — **poly-mer-ic-ally** *adv.*

poly-mer-ism (pō lim'er iz'əm, pō-, pāl'i mēr-) *n.* the condition of being polymeric

poly-mer-iza-tion (pō lim'er ē zā'shān, pō-, pāl'i mēr'ē-) *n.* 1 the process of chaining together many simple molecules to form a more complex molecule with different physical properties 2 the changing of a compound into a polymeric form by this process — **poly-mer-ize** (-iz'), -ized', -izing, *vt.*

poly-morph (pāl'i mōrf) *n.* [Gr *polymorphos*, see POLY- & -MORPH] 1 Biol. a polymorphous organism or one of its forms 2 Chem., Mineralogy a) a substance that can crystallize in different forms, b) one of these forms

poly-morph-ism (pāl'i mōrf'iz'əm) *n.* [POLY-MORPH(OUS) + -ISM] 1 Chem. Mineralogy the property of certain substances of crystallizing in two or more different forms or systems 2 Biol. the condition in which a species has two or more very different morphological forms, as the castes of social insects or the flowers of certain plants

poly-morpho-nu-cle-ar (pāl'i mōrfō nōō'klē ar, -nyōō-) *adj.* having a lobed nucleus, as the neutrophils

poly-morphous (pāl'i mōrf'as) *adj.* [Gr *polymorphos*: see POLY- & -MORPH] of, having, or exhibiting polymorphism. Also **poly-morph-ic** — **poly-morph-ous-ly** *adv.*

poly-my-xin (pāl'i miks'in) *n.* [ModL (*Bacillus*) *polymyx(a)* (< *poly-*, POLY- + *myxa* < Gr *myxa*, MUCUS) + -IN] any of various antibiotics obtained from strains of a soil bacterium (*Bacillus polymyxa*), esp. effective against Gram-negative bacteria

Poly-ne-sia (pāl'a nē'shē, -shā) [ModL < Gr *poly-*, POLY- + *nésos*, island + -IA] a major division of the Pacific islands east of the international date line, including Hawaii, Samoa, Tonga, the Society Islands, Marquesas Islands etc.: cf. MELANESIA, MICRONESIA

Poly-ne-sian (pāl'i nē'shān, -shān) *n.* 1 a member of any of the indigenous peoples of Polynesia including the Hawaiians, Tahitians, Samoans, Maoris, Marquesans, Tongans, and other groups 2 the languages of Polynesia, a subgroup of the Austronesian language family — *adj.* designating or of the Polynesians or their languages or cultures

poly-neu-ri-tis (pāl'i nōō rit'is, -nyōō-) *n.* neuritis involving several nerves simultaneously

Poly-ni-ces (pāl'i nī'sēs) [Gr *Polynikēs*, lit. great wrangler < *polys* much (see POLY-) + *neikos*, quarrel, akin to *Nike*: see NIKE] Gr. Legend a son of Oedipus and Jocasta: see SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

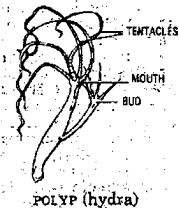
poly-no-mial (pāl'i nō'mē al) *n.* [POLY- + (BI)NOMIAL] an expression or name consisting of more than two terms; specif. a) Algebra a linear combination of products of integral powers of a given set of variables, with constant coefficients (Ex.: $x^2 + 3x + 2$ or $x^2 - 2xy + y^2$) b) Biol. a species or subspecies name consisting of more than two terms — *adj.* consisting of or characterized by polynomials

poly-nu-cle-ar (pāl'i nōō'klē ar, -nyōō-) *adj.* [POLY- + NUCLEAR] having many nuclei. Also **poly-nu-cle-ate** (-it)

po-ly-ny-a (pā lin'yā, pāl'in yk') *n.* [Russ *polynya* < *polyi*, hollow < OSlav **pol-no-*, level area < IE base **plā-*, broad, flat > PLANE, FLOOR] a usually oblong area of open water surrounded by sea ice

poly-oma-virus (pāl'a ō'mē) [POLY- + -OMA] any of a genus (*Polyomavirus*) of DNA viruses that naturally infect wild and laboratory mice, and when injected into newborn mice or hamsters cause tumors

poly-p (pāl'ip) *n.* [Fr *polype* < L *polypus* < Gr *polypous* < *poly-*, POLY- + *pous*, FOOT] 1 any of various cnidarians; colonial or individual, having a mouth fringed with many small, slender tentacles bearing stinging cells at the top of a tubelike body, as the sea anemone or hydra 2 a smooth projecting growth of hypertrophied mucous membrane in the nasal passages: bladder, rectum, etc.



poly-par-y (pāl'i per'ē) *n.*, pl. -paries [ModL < L *polypus*, prec.] the common base or the connecting tissue to which each member of a colony of polyps is attached. Also **poly-par-ium** (-ē ūm), pl. -ia (-ē)

poly-pep-tide (pāl'i pep'tid) *n.* [POLY- + PEPTIDE] a substance containing two or more amino acids in the molecule joined together by peptide linkages

poly-petal-ous (pāl'i pet'as) *adj.* [POLY- + PETALOUS] Bot. having separate petals

poly-pha-gia (pāl'i fā'jā, -jā ā) *n.* [ModL < Gr < *poly-*, POLY- + *phagein*, to eat: see PHAGOUS] 1 excessive desire for food 2 the eating of or subsistence on many kinds of food — **poly-pha-gous** (pā lig'as) *adj.*

poly-phase (pāl'i fāz) *adj.* Elec. having, generating, or using alternating currents (usually three or a multiple of three) differing in phase [a polyphase system]

Poly-phē-mus (pāl'i fē'mas) in Homer's *Odyssey*, a Cyclops who confines Odysseus and his companions in a cave until Odysseus blinds him so that they can escape

poly-phē-mus moth (pāl'i fē'mēs) a large, brownish American silkworm moth (*Antheraea polyphemus*) with an eyelike spot on each hind wing

poly-phon (pāl'i fōn) *n.* *Phonetic*. a polyphonic letter or other symbol, or a group of letters or symbols that is polyphonic

poly-phonic (pāl'i fōn'ik) *adj.* [Gr *polyphōnos*, having many tones: see POLY- & -PHONE] 1 having or making many sounds 2 Music a) of or characterized by polyphony; contrapuntal: b) that can produce more than one tone at a time, as a piano 3 *Phonetic*, representing more than one sound, as the letter c as in cat and in cereal. Also **poly-pho-nous** (pā lig'as) — **poly-pho-ni-cal-ly** *adv.*

poly-pho-ny (pā lig'as) *n.* [Gr *polyphōnia*: see POLY- & -PHONE] 1 multiplicity of sounds, as in an echo 2 Music a combining of a number of independent but harmonizing melodies, as in a fugue or canon; counterpoint 3 *Phonetic*, the representation of two or more sounds by the same letter, symbol, or group of symbols; as the group th as in then and in thin

poly-phy-letic (pāl'i fī let'ik) *adj.* [POLY- + PHYLETIC] Biol. derived from more than one ancestral type — **poly-phy-let-i-cal-ly** *adv.*

poly-pide (pāl'ip id' -id) *n.* [POLYP + -IDE (var. of -ID)] ZOON (sense 2)

poly-ploid (pāl'i plōid) *adj.* [POLY- + -PLOID] having the number of chromosomes in the somatic cells three or more times the haploid number — *n.* a polyploid cell or organism — **poly-ploid-y** *n.*

poly-pody (pāl'i pōdē) *n.*, pl. -dies [ME *polipodye* < L *polypodium* < Gr *polypodion* < *poly-*, POLY- + *pous* (gen. *podos*), FOOT: from its creeping-rootstocks] any of a genus (*Polypodium*, family Polypodiaceae) of ferns with leathery pinnatifid leaves borne on creeping rootstocks

poly-pous (pāl'ip as) *adj.* of or like a polyp

poly-pro-pyl-ene (pāl'i prō'pē lēn) *n.* [POLY(MER) + PROPYLENE] polymerized propylene, a very light, highly resistant, thermoplastic resin used in packaging, coating, pipes and tubes, etc.

poly-ptych (pāl'ip tik) *n.* [Gr *polyptychos*, having many folds < *poly-* (see POLY-) + *ptyx*, a fold] a set of four or more panels with pictures, carvings, etc. often hinged for folding together, used as an altarpiece, etc.

poly-rhythm (pāl'i rit'əm) *n.* [POLY- + RHYTHM] Music 1 the use of strongly contrasting rhythms in simultaneous voice parts 2 such a rhythm: usually used in pl. — **poly-rhyth-mic** *adj.*

poly-ri-bo-some (pāl'i ri'bō sōm) *n.* POLYSOME

poly-sac-char-ide (pāl'i sak'ē rid) *n.* [POLY- + SACCHARIDE] any of a group of complex carbohydrates, as starch, that decompose by hydrolysis into a large number of monosaccharide units

at, āte, cār, ten, ēve; is, ice; gō, hōrn, look, tōol; oil, out; ūp, fūr; a for unstressed vowels, as a in ago, u in focus; ' as in Latin (lat'n); chin; shē; zh as in azure (azh'ar); thin; the; ŋ as in ring (rīŋ) In etymologies: * = unattested; < = derived from; = = from which * = Americanism See inside front and back covers